GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:298
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
MFN STATUS TO INDIA
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has requested Pakistan to accord it the status of Most Favoured Nation in order to promote trade;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the decision of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement as mentioned in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 298 (Priority XVIII) to be answered on 23.03.05 regarding `MFN status to India`.

The matter of grant of Most Favoured Nation status by Pakistan to India has been raised repeatedly with Pakistan.

Pakistan has so far not granted (MFN) status to India despite its obligations, including under the WTO, and has cited extraneous political and other reasons for this.

Government have drawn attention to Pakistan`s obligation to grant MFN Status to India, and that this step would serve as an indicator of Pakistan`s intention to improve bilateral and regional economic cooperation, and to have normal trade and economic relations.